



OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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February 3, 2020

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Ruhl
California's Ocean Observing Systems
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

Dear Dr. Anderson & Dr. Ruhl:

On behalf of the California Ocean Protection Council, I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI).

The mission of the OPC is to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. The OPC is committed to basing its decisions and actions on the best available science, and to promoting the use of science among all entities involved in the management of ocean resources. SCCOOS and CeNCOOS provide the OPC with data that enables us to make better natural resources management decisions, in particular in the areas of the impacts of sea level rise, fate and transport of contaminant plumes, and harmful algal blooms. As an example, the HAB network, which uses OOS data, is used to make fisheries management (Dungeness crab – our number one fishery in the state) and public health decisions. Also, as we see the growing impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia, the use of the ocean observing system and the need for additional monitoring has become even more critical.

I understand that SCCOOS and CeNCOOS are funded primarily by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sustained funding for SCCOOS and CeNCOOS is crucial to the maintenance of the region's ocean observing network and to the continuity of the important data products and services that these observing systems enable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold, D.Env.
Executive Director